

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-8 are amended. Support for the amendments to claims 1-8 can be found, for example, in original claims 1-8. No new matter is added. In view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration as the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution; (c) do not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and (d) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

Interview

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representative by Examiner Sever in the September 8, 2005 personal interview. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 2 and 4 contain allowable subject matter.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 3 and 5-8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 6,417,966 to Moshrefzadeh et al. ("Moshrefzadeh"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 1 recites "[a] diffusion sheet for use in a transmission-type screen, the diffusion sheet comprising: a main diffusion layer ... and an assisting diffusion layer provided at least on an emergence surface-side of the main diffusion layer; wherein: the main diffusion layer is provided with a plurality of substantially parallel groove channels in the emergence surface extending along the main diffusion layer in a vertical direction ... the light diffusion component of the assisting diffusion layer is selected so that a gain curve for light emergent from the diffusion sheet at horizontal viewing angles has no minimal point" (emphasis added). Claim 8 recites "[a] transmission-type screen, comprising: a diffusion sheet ... and a Fresnel lens ... wherein: the diffusion sheet comprises: a main diffusion layer ... an assisting diffusion layer provided at least on an emergence surface-side of the main diffusion layer; wherein: the main diffusion layer is provided with a plurality of substantially parallel groove channels in the emergence surface extending along the main diffusion layer in a vertical direction ... the light diffusion component of the assisting diffusion layer is selected so that a gain curve for light emergent from the diffusion sheet at horizontal viewing angles has no minimal point" (emphasis added). Moshrefzadeh does not teach or suggest such a diffusion sheet or such a transmission-type screen.

The Office Action asserts that Moshrefzadeh discloses a diffusion sheet for use in a transmission-type screen including a main diffusion layer and an assisting diffusion layer. The Office Action further asserts that Moshrefzadeh discloses that the assisting diffusion layer includes a light diffusion component that is adjusted so that a gain curve of emergent light from the diffusion sheet has no minimal point. Notwithstanding these assertions, Moshrefzadeh does not anticipate and would not have rendered obvious claims 1 and 8.

Claims 1 and 8 require (a) an assisting diffusion layer provided at least on an emergence surface-side of a main diffusion layer, (b) a plurality of substantially parallel groove channels in the emergence surface extending along the main diffusion layer in a

vertical direction, and (c) that the assisting diffusion layer include a light diffusion component that is selected so that a horizontal gain curve for light emergent from the diffusion sheet has no minimal point. The Office Action correctly observes that Moshrefzadeh discloses a diffusion sheet including a main diffusion layer having v-shaped grooves and trapezoidal ribs (*see, e.g.*, reference numerals 1004, 1006, FIG. 10). The Office Action asserts that two features disclosed in Moshrefzadeh are assisting diffusion layers (reference numerals 1002, 1020). However, one of the features identified in the Office Action as an assisting diffusion layer (reference numeral 1002) is described in Moshrefzadeh as a "substrate" and not a diffusion layer (*see, e.g.*, column 15, line 26). The other feature identified as an assisting diffusion layer (reference numeral 1020) is not provided on an emergence surface-side of the layer 1006. *See* FIG. 10. Accordingly, neither the substrate 1002 nor the low index material layer 1020 of Moshrefzadeh is an assisting diffusion layer provided on an emergence surface-side of a main diffusion layer, as recited in claims 1 and 8.

Further, Moshrefzadeh does not teach or suggest an assisting diffusion layer including a light diffusion component that is selected so that a gain curve for light emergent from a diffusion sheet at horizontal viewing angles has no minimal point. The Office Action asserts that Moshrefzadeh discloses that a gain curve having no minimal point (*see* FIG. 6B) can be obtained using the device of Moshrefzadeh. However, the gain curve is a vertical gain curve. That is, the gain curve shown in FIG. 6B is for light emergent from a diffusion sheet at vertical viewing angles -- viewing angles parallel to the structures (*e.g.*, reference numeral 1004 in FIG. 10) shown in the devices of Moshrefzadeh. By contrast, in claims 1 and 8, a light diffusion component is selected so that a gain curve having no minimal point is obtained for horizontal viewing angles, which are perpendicular to the vertical groove channels in the main diffusion layer. There is no teaching or suggestion in Moshrefzadeh that a horizontal

gain curve having no minimal point can be obtained in a diffusion layer having vertical groove channels.

As Moshrefzadeh does not teach or suggest (a) an assisting diffusion layer provided at least on an emergence surface-side of a main diffusion layer, (b) a plurality of substantially parallel groove channels in the emergence surface extending along the main diffusion layer in a vertical direction, and (c) that the assisting diffusion layer include a light diffusion component that is selected so that a horizontal gain curve for light emergent from the diffusion sheet has no minimal point, Moshrefzadeh does not teach or suggest each and every feature of claims 1 and 8.

Claims 1 and 8 are not anticipated by Moshrefzadeh. Claims 3 and 5-7 depend from claim 1 and, thus, also are not anticipated by claim Moshrefzadeh. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-8 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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